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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on the Promotion
and Protection of Human Rights
Fifty-fourth session
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PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

Written statement* submitted by Europe-Third World Centre, a non-governmental organisation in general consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[5 July 2002]

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*This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE. *200201431 4*
ENG

Changing Asylum and Immigration Policies, the Threat to Democracy in the European Union after September 11 and the Situation of Kurdish Refugees in the UK

As a non-governmental organization engaged in human rights issues that impact the lives of the dispossessed and marginalized in different parts of the world, the Europe-Third World Centre (CETIM) expresses grave concern that changes in asylum and immigration policies in the European Union in light of September 11 are severely undermining the fundamental rights of refugees and migrants. In addition, these policies while eroding European democratic tradition and values are also fuelling racist sentiments from which ultra-conservative political parties and organizations of the extreme-Right in many parts of Europe derive their growing strength. CETIM also wishes to highlight the particular case of Kurdish refugees in the UK whose situation is likely to become more and more precarious in view of these developments. The concerns that CETIM will be raising in this statement reinforce those already expressed at the 58th session of the Commission on Human Rights by the UN High Commissioner, Mary Robinson, when she said that "excessive measures have been taken in several parts of the world that suppress and restrict individual rights including privacy, freedom of thought, presumption of innocence, fair trial, the right to seek asylum, political participation, freedom of expression and peaceful assembly."1

A Democratic Deficit

In December last year, the EU Council agreed on a framework decision and a common position on combating terrorism. The framework decision defines and instructs member states to include as terrorist offences "intentional acts, by their nature and context, which may be damaging to a country or an international organization."2 While a (non-binding) Declaration was also issued ensuring that the framework decision does not implicate those who are merely exercising their right to legitimate dissent, the definition of terrorism, which was adopted, is so broad and all-encompassing that it does not give any amount of assurance that issue-based protests or trade union activities would not come under the purview of this definition. This scepticism is not completely unfounded in the face of EU plans to extend the Schengen Information System (SIS) to create a database of "suspected" activists or "trouble-makers," which could be retrieved by police, paramilitary and other security organizations when there is an assumed "threat" for a planned demonstration in an EU member country. To augment these, discussions are going on for an extension of the powers of Europol to incorporate public order and surveillance of protests as well as the creation of an EU force of riot police. These plans, if they materialize, would be tantamount to a criminalization of protest while putting an "alert" on a particular person who is assumed to be a "trouble-maker" would assign a "quasi criminal record3 on those who, based on their criteria, are assumed to be "trouble-makers."

Obviously, a lot of fundamental questions have to be raised including those that pertain to data protection and how data will eventually be used but even a cursory look at these developments would highlight the fact that the democratic values on which European political culture is founded are under serious threat. The suppression of the freedom of movement, the right to legitimate political dissent and other human rights cannot be sacrificed in the name of combating terrorism. Instead, these rights need to be upheld while the issues underlying political protest and unrest such as poverty and inequality, unjust and exploitative economic arrangements, etc, need to be comprehensively addressed.

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1 Refer to http://www.statewatch.org/news2002/mar/12unhchr.html
2 Refer to http://www.statewatch.org/news/2001/dec/07terrdef.html
3 http://www.statewatch.org/news/2001/nov/19sis.htm

War on Immigration

The off-shoot of the war against terrorism is reflected in the shifting policies relating to immigration and asylum which zero in on deterrence and the fight against human trafficking. The attitude of policy-makers towards the displacement of people is that of "hostility and rejection"4 and a paranoid fear that all illegal immigrants and refugees could be linked to terrorist organizations who enter the country in order to create havoc and undermine national security. While pursuing an aggressive line to combat human trafficking, on the one hand, and a complete disregard for the plight of refugees and migrants, on the other, both trafficker and trafficked have effectively been lumped together as part of a criminal conspiracy. Driven into desperation, with no legitimate means open to them, refugees and immigrants are forced to seek drastic means even if in the end this might spell their death as what happened to the women and children who were thrown into the Atlantic by traffickers to avoid detection or the 58 Chinese who froze to death inside a refrigerated lorry5. While international law upholds the right of migrants to claim asylum regardless of their means of entry, states have also been quick to denounce "illegal" entries as violating domestic immigration laws and, therefore, as criminal deeds.

Deterrence instead of any humanitarian consideration seems to be the rule rather than the exception. The lack of protection measures, the policy of dispersal and the voucher system, surveillance as well as the existence of detention centres in many countries in Europe all account for deterrent policies. Below are some examples:
- "In the Netherlands, where a special police unit investigating human trafficking has been extended under the Action Plan on Terrorism and Security to research possible links with terrorism, biometric identification measures will be increasingly used for refugees and those seeking visas.
- In Germany, where the interior minister Otto Schilly has introduced a wide range of new measures aimed at asylum seekers and 'tolerated refugees', the Law of Obligatory Residence (which restricts asylum seekers from moving outside a designated area) has now been justified on the grounds that the 'restriction of the basic rights of asylum seekers is justified in order to protect national security and public order'.
- In the UK, home secretary David Blunkett, announcing new reception arrangements and the introduction of identity cards for asylum seekers, has stated that, in future, all asylum seekers will be tracked from arrival to removal because, in the past, terrorists have used the asylum system to gain entry to the UK.6"

The Tampere European Council summit in 1999 crystallized the European Union's goal of reducing drastically the number of refugees by imposing its asylum policy from the point of origin, effectively putting the "responsibility for the prevention of refugee movement to the asylum seeker's country of origin."7 This was further emphasized in the recently concluded European Council on 21 and 22 June 2002 in Seville when the Council decided that all EU agreements with non-EU states will "include a clause on joint management of migration flows and on compulsory readmission in the event of illegal immigration."8 Related to this is the British Government's plan that effectively ties EU development aid to a country's record in cooperating in the crackdown on illegal immigrants. The imposition of the European Union's immigration controls on the Third

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4 Liz Fekete, The Emergence of Xeno-Racism, Institute of Race Relations, http://www.irr.org.uk/xenoracism/index.html
5 Ibid
6 Liz Fekete, Racism: The Hidden Cost of September 1, Institute of Race Relations, UK, 2002, p.3.
7 Ibid
8 EU Presidency Conclusions at the Seville European Council 22/22 June 2002, para. 33

World will be guaranteed through the application of sanctions, including agreements on aid and development assistance. A precedent already exists in that, in February 2000, £8.5 billion in aid and trade agreements between the EU, Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific were bound to "specific rules guaranteeing the repatriation and expulsion of people deemed to be 'illegal' within the EU."9

What all this means is that the war against terrorism has become a war waged against those who, by force of political and other circumstances, have been forced to seek refuge elsewhere outside of their own countries. In this context, refugees and migrants have become mere statistics in a migratory flow while their specific stories and experiences are entirely disregarded. The response to this flow is outright rejection and repatriation regardless of whether a refugee has been condemned by the State or is under threat of torture and inhumane treatment. While the EU itself admits that it is poverty and injustice that constitute push factors for the migration of peoples, it is opting for an easy way out by choosing to ignore these problems. Furthermore, by strengthening the policies of deterrence, which were articulated in the preceding paragraphs, European Governments are preparing the ground that would make it possible for the far-right to launch more offensives against refugees and migrants as well as the emergence of racism within socially and economically disadvantaged communities.

The Situation of Kurdish Refugee Communities and Asylum Seekers

Part of the hysteria created by the aftermath of September 11 is reflected in the subsequent labelling and categorization of individuals and groups that are deemed to constitute threats to national security and are, therefore, "terrorists". On 2 May 2002, the Council of the European Union adopted by written procedure the inclusion of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in the EU list of terrorist groups. This decision was made in the face of persistent demands by the Turkish Government even though in 1999 the PKK has repeatedly declared a unilateral ceasefire and abandoned the armed struggle in favour of a democratic solution to the Kurdish question, which culminated in the establishment of the Kurdistan Freedom and Democracy Congress (KADEK) and the disbanding of the PKK. The implications of this move on the human rights of Kurdish refugees and asylum seekers is enormous despite the fact that, over the years, more than 4'000 villages have already been destroyed, more than 3 million people have been displaced and torture and involuntary disappearances have been routine practices by the Turkish military against suspected Kurdish activists, guerrillas and sympathizers of the Kurdish cause. These assaults on the Kurdish people continue unabated to this day.

The decision of the EU Council seems to be a critical point in an unfolding scenario that reflects a mounting disregard for the plight of Kurdish refugees and asylum seekers in the past two decades. A report published at the end of September 2001 argues that, already, in the 1980s, Kurdish refugees and asylum seekers in the UK (and Germany) have been "targeted" and "criminalized" by state and non-state actors and with increasing brutality10. This has been fuelled by the growing strength of far-right groups as well as racist and sensational propaganda by the tabloid press. Following are cases that highlight the "targeting" and "criminalization" of Kurdish refugee communities and asylum seekers in the UK:

- "In the beginning of May 2001, Barbara Roche, UK's Home Office Minister brazenly announced that immigration officers are now being openly permitted to officially discriminate against eight

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9 http://www.irr.org.uk/xenoracism/index.html

10 Desmond Fernandes, The Targeting and Criminalization of Kurdish Asylum Seekers and Refugee Communities in the UK and Germany, *Kurdish Exodus: From Internal Displacement to Diaspora*, Ahmed Foundation for Kurdish Studies, Massachusetts, USA, September 2001, p. 133.

nationalities, one of which was Kurdish." 11

- The UK's policy of dispersal has meant that refugees are pushed to some of the most deprived areas of the country, far from city centres, where no health, housing, counselling and educational provisions exist. The refugees in these places have become the target of brutal racist attacks and even murder. In the Sighthill area in Glasgow last year, there have been 70 racist assaults on Kurds and other refugees12.

- Under the pretext of investigating "Turkish terrorists" in London and elsewhere, special police units have placed Kurdish refugee communities under comprehensive surveillance13... while relatives in Turkey of people in Europe suspected of supporting the PKK are in grave danger of police raids, torture and death.14

Many more cases have been documented over the last twenty years but current legislation and tougher asylum and immigration policies in the EU and the UK will not ameliorate the precarious situation of Kurdish refugees and asylum seekers in Europe. On the contrary, the EU Council's latest move of denouncing the PKK as a terrorist organization, despite the changes in the PKK agenda and approach, could create even more serious repercussions.

In conclusion, CETIM calls on this Sub-Commission to:

- Urge the EU to uphold and guarantee that fundamental rights and freedoms are not sacrificed in the formulation of policies that govern the fight against terrorism and the preservation of security;

- Urge EU member states to honour agreements that have been made with respect to aid and development assistance and not to use these as conditions to compel Third World countries to "cooperate" in implementing European immigration controls;

- Urge the EU to respect the rights of refugees and migrants and ensure that humanitarian considerations are upheld before any decision to repatriate migrants and refugees is made;

- Adopt a resolution on the situation of Kurdish refugees and asylum seekers in Europe;

- Urge the EU Council to rethink its decision on including the PKK on the list of terrorist organizations in light of its dissolution and in view of the implications of this decision on Kurdish refugee communities and asylum seekers in Europe.

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11 Ibid, p. 146

12 Ibid, p. 147

13 Long, S. (1995) « M15, Special Branch and the Criminalization of Kurds in Britain, *Kurdistan Report,* No. 20, January-February 1995, p. 4

14 Rayne, T. (1994) « Kurds Targeted in Britain », *Kurdistan Report,* October-November 1994, p.40.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Written statement*submitted by Pax Christi International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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GE. *0020143 16*

ENG

Human Rights Violations in Papua

Pax Christi International wishes to draw your attention to the climate of impunity, violations of human rights of the community, human rights defenders and political activists in the province of Papua, Indonesia.

According to Amnesty International, the investigation conducted by the Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights (Komisi Nasional Hak Asasi Manusia-Komnas HAM) into the events of July 1998 in Biak confirmed that human rights violations took place in Biak, but despite a recommendation that a complete investigation be carried out, no further action has been taken by the authorities. Following the events of 6 October 2000 in Wamena, two members of Komnas HAM visited the town. The report of the visit of Komnas-HAM has still not been made public. No member of the security forces has been brought to justice for committing violations in Biak or Wamena. A similar situation of impunity exists in the case of human rights violations in other security force operations, including those in Merauke (July 1999); Timika (December 1999); Nabire (February and March 2000); Merauke (February 2000); Sorong (August 2000); Fakfak (December 2000); Merauke (November and December 2000) and Manokwari (May 2001). In Wasior Sub-District, Manokwari District, over 150 people were reported to have been arbitrarily detained, and/or tortured, at least one person is known to have died in police custody and an unknown number of people unlawfully killed or "disappeared," during the course of operations led by the Police Mobile Brigade (Brimob) in the second half of 2001. A total of 26 of those detained have been charged with various offences. There are serious concerns about the fairness of their trials, including concerns over the irregularities in arrest and detention procedures and allegations that the defendants were tortured while in pre-trial detention.

Pax Christi International also wishes to draw attention to the harassment of human rights defenders in Papua who are involved in investigating and publicising these incidents and other cases of human rights abuse. In early September 2000, the Director of the Jayapura based Institute for Human Rights Study and Advocacy (ELSHAM) was summoned for interrogation by the police and security forces. Two days later, two of ELSHAM's staff were summoned for a 'discussion' with police about their work to document the December 2000 Abepura incident. The ELSHAM Director and other staff have received death threats. While Pax Christi International does not take any specific stand on the issue of Papuan self-determination we raise serious concerns about the concerted targeting of political activists for harassment and intimidation. Many political activists in Papua believe, based on documented evidence, that the murder of the Chairman of the Papua Council Presidium, Chief Theys Hiyo Eluay in November 2001 was not an isolated case but was executed with careful planning and coordination. They fear that other political activists will suffer a similar fate as that of Mr. Eluay in order to curb political activity in Papua.

Pax Christi International urges the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to remind the Indonesian Government of its responsibility to protect human rights defenders as spelled out in Article 2.1 of the UN Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognised Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (Declaration on Human Rights Defenders).

Each failure to bring perpetrators of human rights violations to justice reinforces the confidence of perpetrators that they are indeed above the law. This connection was explicitly recognised by the United Nations Committee against Torture in November 2001 when it examined Indonesia's first periodic report on the implementation of the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. In its concluding remarks, the Committee

expressed concern about a climate of impunity in Indonesia, "advanced in part because of the fact that there has been little progress in bringing to trial members of the military, the police or other state officials, particularly those holding senior positions, who are alleged to have planned, commanded and/or perpetrated acts of torture and ill-treatment."1

Pax Christi International, therefore calls upon the Sub-Commission to:

- Recognise the grave human rights situation in Papua by adopting a resolution condemning these violations and calling upon the Indonesian authorities to take immediate steps to prevent them.

- Urge the Indonesian government to end impunity by bringing the perpetrators of human rights violations to justice, both for past and current human rights violations in Papua.

- Urge the Indonesian government to take steps to ensure that the right to freedom of expression is respected throughout Indonesia, including Papua.

- Urge the Indonesian government to take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of human rights defenders from all human rights violations, by conducting immediate, effective and impartial investigations into human rights violations, threats and other forms of harassment against human rights defenders in Papua and instituting an impartial and independent inquiry into the murder of Theys Eluay.

- Urge the Indonesian government to implement, without further delay, the recommendations of the UN Committee against Torture and of other UN human rights mechanisms and bodies.

- Urge the Indonesian government to issue invitations to the Special Rapporteur on torture, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial executions and the Special Representative on human rights defenders to visit Papua.

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1 Conclusion and Recommendations of the Committee against Torture-Indonesia. Twenty-Seventh session 12-13 November 2001, CAT/C/XXVII/Concl.3, 22 November 2001.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Written statement* submitted by the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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GE. * 2 0 0 2 0 1 4 3 1 9 *

ENG

Administration of Justice

1. The People's Republic of China is party to several UN human rights instruments and standards all of which adhere to provide the fullest form of protection to detainees, including those held for their political or religious beliefs. China is currently a signatory of the UN Convention on Civil and Political Rights. In November 2000, Beijing also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. However, while acknowledging these positive steps, the international community should not ignore the fact that Tibetan citizens are still denied many fundamental rights to which they are entitled, including the freedoms of expression, assembly, association, and religion. Some of the worst abuses are exercised against those who exercise political dissent. In Tibet, security forces routinely resort to arbitrary arrest, imprisonment, and torture in response to non-violent protests, including displaying Tibetan flags or other symbols of cultural identity, holding peaceful demonstrations, possessing a photograph of the Dalai Lama, compiling a list of prisoners, putting up posters, and distributing nationalistic leaflets.

2. In recent months, the Chinese authorities published a series of official articles on the situation of prisons and prisoners in Tibet in response to repeated criticism from abroad. As the editor of one publication stated : "Recently, government departments in Tibet received a series of letters from foreigners asking whether there is a high incidence of cases involving the torture and beating of prisoners in Tibetan prisons and whether there is a high death rate of prisoners when they are serving sentences or right after release. Officials from the U.S. Congress also raised similar questions with the departments concerned in the Tibet Autonomous Region in southwest China." 1) The articles, of course, denied any truth to such claims. One article maintained that there were "no accidental deaths in Tibet's prisons," quoting Lu Bo, the head of the "Tibet Autonomous Region Prison" (a.k.a. Drapchi Prison) as saying: "I've never heard of any case involving the accidental death of prisoners in Tibet." But Lu added: "Fifteen prisoners in the regional prison died of illness in the past five years."

3. The evidence belies such denials, however. Independant sources testify to the effect that a number of political prisoners die in custody or after their release every year in Tibet. On 29 February 2002, Amnesty International issued an international appeal demanding "accountability" for the deaths in custody. 2) The appeal drew attention the the fact that nine prisoners, mainly Buddhist monks and nuns, had died following protests which took place in Tibet's notorious Drapchi Prison on 1 and 4 May 1998. The deaths reportedly took place as a result of severe beatings and other forms of torture and ill-treatment meted out by prison officers, apparently as punishment for their participation in the protests. Despite repeated calls for accountability, however, the Chinese authorities have so far failed to initiate a full and independent inquiry into these allegations and to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice.

4. On the other hand, the death last year of Mr. Namgyal Tashi, a former political prisoner and father of Ngawang Sangdrol, the longest-serving female political prisoner in Tibet, is one example of how former detainees gradually succumb to the after-effects of mistreatment in prison. New evidence also emerged about the death in February 2001 of a Tibetan nun, Ngawang Lochoe, a year before the end of her 10-year sentence in Lhasa's Drapchi prison. The twenty-eight year old woman had been suffering from a condition known as acute (necrotizing) pancreatitis and had only been hospitalised on the day of her death, according to the official source. Enrolled as a nun at Samdrub Dolma Lhakhang (temple) in Toelung Dechen county (Chinese: Duilongdeqing), Ngawang Lochoe was sentenced in July 1992 to five years in prison for taking part in a peaceful protest in Lhasa. Her sentence was then extended by another five years in 1993 after she and 13 other nuns in Drapchi made a tape recording of songs dedicated to their family and friends which was smuggled out of prison.

5. In August/September 2001, a Tibetan monk in his early twenties from Labrang monastery in north-eastern Tibet died following maltreatment during a short period of detention in Lhasa. The monk, Kelsang Gyatso, was detained with a large group of Tibetans who were attempting to escape into Nepal. Kelsang Gyatso, the eldest of three children whose parents are nomads in Sangchu (Ch: Xiahe) township in Gansu province, became a monk at the age of six at Labrang Tashikyil monastery in the so-called, „Kanlho (Ch: Gannan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Gansu".

6. Another case involves a Tibetan farmer in his thirties who died in prison following his arrest for participation in demonstrations protesting the arrest of a respected Buddhist teacher. Tsering Wangdrak, who is survived by his wife and two young children, died in August 2000 while serving a sentence of three years and eight months. Reports said that he was beaten unconscious at least once, suffering blows to his chest and stomach, during his initial period in detention following the demonstrations in Karze (Chinese: Ganzi) county town, of the so-called "Karze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" in Sichuan Province in October 1999. Tsering Wangdrak was one of several Tibetans sentenced in connection with one of the largest public demonstrations in a Tibetan region since the 1980s. The demonstrations followed the arrests of a senior Buddhist scholar, Ghen Sonam Phuntsog, his assistant, Sonam, and Agyal Tsering, a monk and former political prisoner.

7. Reports from Ngaba (a Tibetan area incorporated into Sichuan province) highlight Ngapa Prison's increasing importance as a place of detention for Tibetan political prisoners. Fourteen Tibetan political prisoners are currently being held in Ngaba prison in Maowun county (Chinese: Maoxian) in so-called "Ngaba (Ch: Aba) Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture". Eleven of these are monks, including three monks from Kirti monastery in the region, five monks from Gepheling monastery in neighbouring "Karze (Ch:Ganzi) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture", one monk from Lithang, and a Tibetan lama who was sentenced to a term of six years after expressing his opposition to local government policies linked to gold mining near his monastery. A reliable report indicates that Ghen Sonam Phuntsok, the afore-mentioned religious teacher whose detention sparked off major demonstrations in Karze in October 1999, is also being held in Ngaba prison, while serving a prison term of five years.

8. On 9 May 2000, the Committee Against Torture, in its concluding observation on China's Third Periodic Report, expressed concern "about the continuing allegations of serious incidents of torture, especially involving Tibetans and other national minorities." In this connection, we once again urge the Chinese authorities to receive the Special Rapporteur on Torture as invited in 1999 and to accept fully the Special Rapporteur's "terms of reference" for such a visit. The Report of the Special Rapporteur on Torture to the 58th UN Commission on Human Rights once again highlighted cases of torture victims in Tibet.

9. In February 2001, a comprehensive study by the Tibet Information Network (TIN) in London listed a total of 197 Tibetan monks and nuns detained in Tibet, the majority of whom were imprisoned in the so-called "Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR)". 3) In April 2000, the director of the "TAR" Prison Administration Bureau told a visiting foreign delegation that there were over 100 monks and nuns imprisoned in the TAR's three prisons, of whom 90 percent were incarcerated for "endangering state security." There are continued reports of imprisonment and abuse or torture of monks and nuns accused of political activism in connection with the official "Strike Hard" campaign which has resulted in the expulsion of thousands of clergy from their religious institutions and hundreds of arrests since 1996. Prisoners who resist the "political re-education" imposed by prison authorities, particularly demands to denounce the Dalai Lama and accept

Gyaltsen Norbu, the boy recognized by the Government as the Panchen Lama, are gravely mishandled. The TIN reported severe beatings of several nuns serving long prison sentences, including Ngawang Choezom and Phuntsog Nyidrol, imprisoned in 1989 for singing pro-independence songs. Government officials stated that because Phuntsog Nyidrol has since shown "repentance", her sentence has been reduced by one year. She is scheduled to be released in 2005. Nun Ngawang Sangdrol was also beaten severely on multiple occasions and held in solitary confinement for an extended period. Her prison sentence was extended for a third time in 1998 to a total of 21 years for taking part in demonstrations in prison. Ngawang Sangdrol's health continues to be of concern, despite government officials' assertions that her health is fine.

10. In recent months, the Chinese authorities have released three well-known Tibetan political prisoners, Chadrel Rinpoche, Ngawang Choephel and Tanak Jigme Sangpo, in response to repeated international appeals. We welcome these steps taken by the Chinese authorities. However, we believe that the release of all political prisoners in Tibet is urgently needed. This would be a major signal that Beijing is sincere in its proclaimed observance of universal norms and standards in the field of human rights. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that such a step will taken without addional pressure on the part of the international community. As the recent official articles glorifying prison conditions in Tibet cited above demonstrate, the current policy is a white wash. All claims by the Chinese government concerning the promotion and protection of human rights in Tibet must be seen in this light.

11. In view of the many cases documenting the continued and wide-spread use of arbitrary arrest, detention, and torture in the administration of justice, we call upon the Sub-Commission to intervene urgently on the human rights situation in Tibet.

Footnotes :

1) From "Prison on the Plateau", an official Chinese government publication, issued by the China-Tibet Information Center; available at www. tibetinfor.com

2) Amnesty International Index : ASA 21 / 009 / 2002

3) "Suppressing Dissent : A Report on Political Imprisonment in Tibet 1997 - 2000" published on 23 February 2001 by the Tibet Information Network in London; available at www. tibetinfo.net

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